

THE

January 2014



voice



**STATE
EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

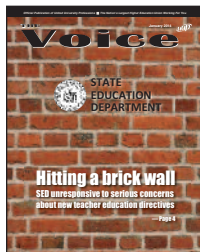
Hitting a brick wall

**SED unresponsive to serious concerns
about new teacher education directives**

— Page 4

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LETTERS POLICY

The Voice welcomes timely letters about university and union issues, politics and other events relevant to UUP's concerns. All letters are subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity. Please type or email your letters, limit them to 300 words, and include your name and daytime phone number for verification.

Unsigned letters will not be published.

Email letters to UUP Associate Director of Communications Michael Lisi at mlisi@uupmail.org or send them to his attention at: *The Voice*, United University Professions, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, New York 12212-5143.

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Contact UUP at P.O. Box 15143, Albany, New York 12212-5143. Telephone (518) 640-6600 or toll-free at (800) 342-4206. UUP's Internet site is www.uupinfo.org. UUP is Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO) and is affiliated with NYSUT and the National Education Association.

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ANGELL M. LAW
Communications Assistant

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Let educators lead reforms

In May, teacher education students in SUNY schools and colleges across the state will be required to complete the edTPA, a complex, high-stakes assessment they must pass to become certified to teach in New York.

As many as a third of the SUNY students who will submit the edTPA in the spring may fail because teacher ed instructors haven't had adequate time to tie the new requirements into the curriculum.

Only one other state, Washington, has tied the edTPA to certification. Education commissioners in 32 other states have chosen instead to run pilot programs and further study the initiative.

Education reforms such as the edTPA aren't endemic to New York. It's the case across the country, as states race to implement accountability-based initiatives such as the Common Core State Standards and other programs based on uniformity and standardization.

The Empire State is home to some of the most rigid education reforms in the U.S.—programs that wrest control from teachers and professors. It's not surprising that many of these changes are strongly supported—and sometimes bankrolled—by for-profit corporations such as Pearson Inc., or pro-business charities like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

HIGHER EDTPA

Here in New York, teacher educators are struggling to implement the edTPA, a situation we cover extensively in this issue of *The Voice*. The edTPA is not only in addition to the faculty-developed, SUNY-approved curriculum; it supersedes it. Students can earn their teaching degree, but they can't teach in New York without first passing the assessment—which is being delivered and scored by Pearson.

Then there's Teach for America (TFA), a program that trains mostly young college graduates—many without



President Fred Kowal speaks out on "Capital Tonight," the daily public affairs cable TV program hosted by Liz Benjamin, right.

education degrees—who commit to teaching for two years in low-income urban and rural schools. These "recruits" are sent into the field after a five-week summer training program. Five weeks!

While there are many proponents of the program, not everyone's buying. Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a bill last May that would have given \$1.5 million to TFA over two years. In December, the Pittsburgh Public Schools rescinded a three-year contract with TFA.

It's also interesting to note that TFA has the backing of two financial giants, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs.

WILL IT WORK?

So exactly how is this move toward standardizing teacher ed strengthening teacher ed programs? Will it produce the highly qualified teachers that will be so crucial in the future?

No one's really sure. But keeping educators at arm's length when developing these reforms and allowing privateers to bankroll them isn't the way to ensure the kind of success expected of these programs.

American education reformers would be well served by taking a cue from countries such as Finland and Singapore—countries that have made extensive investments in teacher education.

In Finland, teachers get three years of tuition-free graduate level schooling. Singapore has made a similar commitment; good teachers and effective school leaders are at the heart of the

country's educational system.

With immigration reform a realistic possibility in 2014, there could soon be a critical need for well-trained teachers. The way to cultivate these future teachers isn't by setting up more hoops for them to jump through.

LET US LEAD

It starts by letting the experts—academic and professional faculty—into the education reform conversation. It's by listening to our input, considering it, and putting it into practice.

It's not about distrusting teachers and unions, and blaming us for the nation's education woes. Education reforms based on the distrust of educators usually don't work because the programs need the support of those same educators to succeed.

If education reformers want to make positive, lasting change that produces high-quality future teachers, they must take their lead from us, the educators.

And let's hope that in 2014, as we shift our advocacy efforts into high gear, we will be successful in working together to create meaningful and effective initiatives that will enhance—and not damage—our teacher preparation programs.

Speaking of the New Year, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for being a part of our union. I wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz".

Teacher ed under

Ready or not, here comes edTPA

Hundreds of SUNY students learning to be teachers have spent the last three-and-a-half years studying SUNY-approved curriculum—and paying tuition—to earn their degrees and secure certification to teach in New York.

Most of these seniors, who will enter their last semester this spring, will accept their diplomas and shift their tassels from right to left on their mortarboards at graduation. But more than a third of them may walk away without their certification.

Why? Because they must pass the edTPA, a new, complex student-teacher performance assessment that, as of May 2014, is required for teacher certification in New York.

SUNY teacher education instructors have been working feverously to mesh edTPA stipulations with curriculum, but there isn't enough time to properly prepare spring semester SUNY seniors to meet the requirements before the edTPA takes effect, they said.

That's a very big problem.

"This certain cohort of students could be in big trouble because they are caught in the middle," said Jamie Dangler, UUP's vice president for academics and chair of the union's Task Force on Teacher Education. "Students have been set up for failure, and it's going to be a big failure."

"There's a real concern over how many students will actually pass this during the coming semester," said Bill Buxton, a task force member and chair of SUNY Cortland's literacy department. "If I were a parent or a student, I'd be very concerned."

MUCH UNCERTAINTY

That's one of many problems with the edTPA shared by SUNY teacher educators, UUP, and NYSUT, which has urged the State Education Department (SED) to include faculty input and slow the initiative. NYSUT first addressed the issue in October 2011.

The UUP task force is a participant in NYSUT's Teacher and School Leader Preparation Workgroup, led by NYSUT Vice President Maria Neira; NYSUT, UUP and the Professional Staff Congress (PSC)/CUNY are represented on the workgroup. Letters, testimony and data on edTPA and teacher preparation issues are available on the task force's website, at <http://bit.ly/JLgwQg>

The NYSUT and UUP groups have worked together to monitor changes being imposed by SED and developed responses to those initiatives, Dangler said.

A DEAF EAR

Unfortunately, SED isn't listening, teacher educators said.

SED has been vague and unresponsive to faculty questions about the edTPA, and inflexible with its unrealistic deadlines. Task force members aren't opposed to all elements of the edTPA; it's SED's slipshod method of implementing it that has teacher educators very concerned.

"We've been met with a brick wall in terms of input and feedback with SED," said Ken Lindblom, director of the English Teacher Education Program at Stony Brook. "Teachers aren't against the concept of this, but we see problems coming with the way it's being implemented."

"The edTPA has not been appropriately integrated into our teacher preparation

programs because SED has not provided our programs with adequate time or all of the preparation materials necessary to do so," said Dangler. "This means SUNY students who have done everything expected of them to complete their SUNY teacher preparation programs, and have paid tuition and fees to do so, could be denied certification because of an SED-imposed requirement that does not correspond well with teacher preparation program requirements."

DELAY? NO WAY

When NYSUT's Neira formally requested in October 2012 that SED delay edTPA implementation by one month, to June 1, 2014, to give teacher ed instructors the time necessary to work edTPA requirements into curriculum; the request was flatly denied by SED Commissioner John King Jr.

The edTPA and other educational reforms must be in place by May 1 for the state to qualify for federal Race to the Top funds.

NYSUT is developing a survey to be administered early this year to teacher ed faculty on the effect the edTPA is having on students, Dangler said.

"I've been in teacher ed for more than 20 years and I've never

experienced anything like this demand," said Christine Murray, an education professor at SUNY Brockport and a task force member. "I think the hardest part is that the



MURRAY

language of the edTPA is totally new to students. It puts a whole different frame

around the process of being a teacher.”

Known formerly as the Teacher Education Performance Assessment, the edTPA was developed at Stanford University as a “multiple-measure,” uniform assessment system set up to sync with K-12 Common Core State Standards, according to edTPA.com, an edTPA information website hosted by Pearson Inc.—a private, for-profit corporation that will deliver and score the tests in New York.

So far, 32 states and the District of Columbia are working toward implementing the edTPA; many are running pilot programs to see how the new initiative might work. Not all states are planning on using the edTPA as a certification requirement, however. Some may use it as part of their education program, or for evaluation purposes.

HIGH STAKES IN NEW YORK

Only two states—New York and Washington—have made passing the edTPA mandatory for certification. Washington’s “cut score”—the minimum grade needed to pass—is significantly lower than what SUNY students must get.

SUNY students must score 41 out of 75 to pass, which could result in a projected 37.1 percent failure rate, according to NYSUT figures. Washington’s cut score was set at 35; 85 percent to 90 percent of students taking that test are expected to pass.

Education students who did their student teaching placements in the fall were required to pass the edTPA because they will seek to become certified to teach in New York when they graduate in the spring. The edTPA is submitted after students finish their student teaching placements.

SUNY Potsdam student teachers who took the test in the fall didn’t fare so well.

see **EDTPA**, page 7

Time to be heard

By VP for Academics Jamie Dangler

Can we reclaim the promise of public education and the discourse surrounding it? That’s the urgent question facing us as UUP members, as educators, as parents and as community members committed to high-quality education for all.

UUP calls on its members to join with students, parents, K-12 colleagues and community groups in a focused effort this spring semester to demand that the state Department of Education (SED) stop ramming an educationally unsound reform plan down the throats of citizens whose cries are being dismissed and disparaged.

Much of this issue of *The Voice* is devoted to helping us understand the gravity of the situation we’re facing, in our SUNY teacher education programs and in public education in general.

ACTION REQUIRED

UUP has pledged to work with our K-12 colleagues, students, parents, campus and school administrators, school boards, community groups and citizens to get public education back on sound footing. Our goal is to inform and activate our legislators and Regents, and urge them to demand SED take immediate steps to reframe its reform plans and make them educationally sound and implementable on reasonable time schedules.

We need you, our members, to get involved and help us take back our public education system.

Here are ways you can help:

- Join us in Albany in late February for Higher Education Advocacy Day—which will bring educators, students and parents together to help legislators understand what is happening to public education in New York.

- Share whatever information and perspectives you have on education reform with your colleagues and community members. Communications through social media and traditional media (articles, letters to the editor, etc.) will help reset the dialogue about education.

- Join your UUP chapter leaders in meetings with legislators and Regents in your home district.

- Join colleagues on your campus to press SUNY to stand up for its programs and institutions. Serious damage is being done, and we have not heard a clear voice from SUNY raising the concerns about our students and our programs.

As *The Voice* went to press, UUP was in the process of finalizing fact sheets and talking points to help our members as they advocate for public education. Those materials will be available at chapter offices, or by contacting the UUP Administrative Office at (800) 342-4206 (ask for Research/Legislation Department staff). They will also be posted on UUP’s website at www.uupinfo.org.

REFORMS RAISE CONCERNS

Public education has been hijacked by a narrowly defined educational reform agenda and the private interests that have funded its marketing and implementation.

see **TAKE ACTION**, page 10

The privatization of higher education

New York University professor of education Pedro Noguera got it right in his December article for *The Nation*.

He wrote, “One of the greatest challenges facing American education today is a fantasy, spun by billionaire-funded ‘think tanks,’ and often repeated uncritically by politicians and pundits, that our schools are failing, that teachers are shirking their responsibilities and that unions are the root of the problem.

“That ‘reform’ is now associated with the crudest assaults on the very infrastructure of public education.”

UUP couldn’t agree more. The standardization of curriculum and admissions requirements, the proliferation of for-profit online education, and an array of unproven teaching and testing guidelines are just a few of the so-called reforms sanctioned by state education commissioners, campus administrators and lawmakers. With the states’ push for austerity budgets, and the resultant disinvestment in public education, the doors to institutions such as SUNY have been thrown wide open to for-profit companies.

The union is left to question if these “stepping stones to privatization” have anything to do with improving education, said UUP President Fred Kowal.

“Don’t buy the rhetoric. The ‘privatization of higher education’ is not a conspiracy theory conjured up by union members and traditionalist

educators,” noted Kowal, a political scientist. “The ‘privatization of higher education’ is a decades-long, systematic exercise by right-wing strategists and corporate CEOs to overtake one of the last bastions of social democracy for personal gain.”

THE STAKES ARE HIGH

The most recent assault on public education is playing out largely in New York, where the State Education Department (SED) is requiring sweeping changes in teacher education programs (see related story, page 4).

SED Commissioner John King Jr. has taken New York’s changes a step further than his counterparts in other states, particularly with regard to the edTPA, a new student-teacher performance assessment. Where other states are involving educators in implementing the stricter guidelines and have delayed making the edTPA a requirement for certification, King has turned a deaf ear to even the most modest of requests—to extend the date of implementation by one month, from May 1 to June 1.

That request from NYSUT would have shifted the affected cohort of students by one semester, allowing newly appointed edTPA coordinators to design guidance and information programs for faculty, teacher candidates and school districts. The extra time is necessary to adequately prepare students subjected to the edTPA.

“We are concerned that SED’s objective is to reduce the number of teacher prep programs in the state,” said UUP Vice President for Academics Jamie Dangler, chair of the union’s Task Force on Teacher Education. “We question the wisdom in terms of the state’s long-term need for qualified teachers.”

Even more troubling to UUP is that a for-profit corporation—Pearson Inc.—is involved in a student-teacher assessment that is embedded in college curriculum.

“Pearson bills itself as ‘the world’s

leading learning company,’ and, frankly, that’s what concerns us,” said Dangler. “Pearson is in business to make money. Period.”

Pearson has its hand in nearly every facet of education reform, she added. The company had a role in creating the Common Core State Standards, along with other philanthropic and corporate donors, a few governors, and some educators dubbed “lead architects.” The company has been contracted by New York to deliver and score standardized exams to K-12 students. Those exam results are being used to assess teacher performance; that is, how well teachers have implemented the standards manufactured by Pearson and others.

“Pearson is solidly ensconced in the standardization of K-12 curricula and in teacher assessments based on that curricula,” Dangler said. “Now Pearson is trying to strengthen its foothold in higher education; the company designed and owns the edTPA delivery system and will perform all the scoring and reporting of edTPA exams.”

That’s the same Pearson that operates the not-for-profit Pearson Charitable Foundation, which in December 2013 agreed to a \$7.7 million settlement with the Office of the New York State Attorney General. The settlement came after Attorney General Eric Schneiderman levied accusations that the foundation had a hand in developing profit-making course materials aligned with the Common Core State Standards, requirements that regulate math and language arts skills taught to K-12 students.

The investigation by Schneiderman’s Charities Bureau also revealed that Pearson used the foundation’s charitable assets to help fund school officials’ participation in a series of international conferences on education. Pearson’s sales personnel were the only for-profit education company employees to attend.

A \$7.7 million settlement is a drop in the bucket for Pearson, a multibillion-

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dollar company that as of May 2012 had contracts with 18 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, including a contract with Texas that topped \$500 million. New York has entered in contracts with Pearson totaling more than \$40 million since 2010, including nearly \$35 million over five years to develop state assessments.

But even if the money trail and business practices weren't suspect, Pearson's product is.

PEARSON PERFORMS POORLY

Pearson's performance to date has been marginal at best. In April 2013, nearly 2,700 New York City K-3 students were told that they were not eligible to enroll in the gifted and talented programs. But they were eligible; Pearson incorrectly scored the admissions tests. The company admitted to three key errors: incorrect recording of students' ages; using the wrong scoring tables; and an inaccurate ranking formula.

That's just for starters. The National Center for Fair and Open Testing reported that as far back as 1999, Pearson fouled up by misgrading 12,000 tests in Arizona. The next year, Florida fined Pearson \$4 million for delays in test score delivery; Minnesota settled for \$11 million after Pearson misgraded more than 45,000 graduation tests.

Despite the growing evidence that, for Pearson, profitability trumps educational quality, the corporation continues to have the inside track to standardized testing and assessments—with little or no parental or educational oversight.

"Experienced educators must be the ones to determine if their students are competent and prepared to enter the teaching profession, not the private corporation that delivers and scores the edTPA," said Kowal. "This is unacceptable, by any standard."

— Karen L. Mattison

edTPA ...

(continued from page 5)

At a Dec. 17 Board of Regents meeting, Amy Guiney, director of field experience at SUNY Potsdam, reported that half of the 18 students who took the edTPA in the fall semester failed the test.

"This is a demanding exam and there needs to be more time for teacher ed programs to prep candidates for it," said Murray. "It's almost like they're setting us up for failure."

Task force members said they expect a number of teacher ed students will drop out of their programs this year because of the edTPA. It may also cause some students who are considering becoming a teacher to reconsider it as a career choice.

"The question is, are the students who drop out the ones we want to keep or are they marginal?" asked Buxton. "Will we lose our better students when they get to (the edTPA)?"



BUXTON

MULTIPLE-MEASURE ASSESSMENT

The edTPA test has three parts, involving teacher planning, instruction and assessment. Students are required to assemble a complex portfolio based on state-required student teaching stints in schools.

Students must also videotape themselves while student teaching—a requirement rife with problems, including obtaining parental permissions to tape students, and finding a willing K-12 teacher with a class to tape.

It's already difficult to find placements for student teachers; the edTPA's video requirement is making the situation acute, teacher ed instructors agreed.

"I feel sorry for the student teachers," said Anne Marie Lauricella, assistant professor in Geneseo's Ella Cline Shear School of Education. "They're told not to rock the boat and to teach what's called for on the standardized tests,

because if you don't, you won't get a job or tenure. They tell students to forget what you've learned in the ivory tower and that they're in the real world."

PAY TO PLAY

As if that's not enough stress, students, many of whom have borrowed thousands in student loans to go to college, have to pay extra to take the test. Students must pay \$300—\$100 for each section of the test—to take the edTPA. They must pass each section; if they fail one part, they must retake it for certification—and pay \$100 to repeat each section they fail.

"The intensity of the requirements is so strong and adding a video component in such a short amount of time has created pressure that's not productive," Lindblom said. "This is not about teaching and educating teachers, it's about creating another element to getting certified."

There's validity to that; Buxton said that Commissioner King has been plain in his disdain with teacher ed programs—that there are more people being certified as teachers than there are job openings. Several task force members questioned if the edTPA was SED's way of terminating some of SUNY's teacher ed curriculum.

"It's hard not to see this as the teacher ed programs being set up to fail," Lindblom said.

While the task force continues to press SED to slow the edTPA's implementation, teacher ed instructors are readying for a dizzying spring semester, one with students who will undoubtedly have many questions about compiling data to complete the new assessment.

"We will have some success this spring, but there will be some real challenges for candidates," said Murray. "What do we do if students don't pass? We'll have to figure that out between now and Jan. 31 because we don't have a plan yet since everything's happening so quickly."

— Michael Lisi

Teacher ed prominent in testimony, Day of Action

Controversial State Education Department (SED) changes in teacher preparation program guidelines are being implemented with unprecedented speed, without faculty input, and with potentially damaging consequences to students—and UUP is doing all it can to set the record straight.

UUP President Fred Kowal and other union leaders have spoken out in testimony before a legislative committee, on broadcast programs aired across the state, and during a national “Day of Action” to reclaim the promise of public education.

In testimony Dec. 12 before the state Assembly Standing Committee on Higher Education, Kowal took issue with SED’s “top-down imposition” of new requirements for college teacher preparation programs.

“The result is a chaotic and educationally unsound transition that threatens to unreasonably deny the current cohort of students their teaching certification, despite their successful program completion at our institutions,” he said.

At issue is edTPA, the new SED-required teacher performance assessment. As of May, students must pass the edTPA to become

certified to teach in New York. The edTPA is required for the current cohort of student teachers (see related story, page 4). NYSUT requested a delay in its

is well above 30 percent.

“Student teachers will be assessed after only two to three weeks of their classroom placement—not enough time to learn, let alone demonstrate mastery,” Kowal said. “And the assessment will include videotaping classroom students, which may be

implementation; SED denied it.

Kowal backed NYSUT, telling lawmakers that students haven’t been taught the materials on which they’ll be assessed, and teacher ed faculty were not given the materials in time to adjust their curricula. Nonetheless, SED is moving ahead, acknowledging the failure rate

a privacy issue for some schools and parents. We do not know if districts or parental refusal to allow taping will mean the student will fail.”

DAY OF ACTION

Kowal called for a modification of so-called educational “reforms” during a statewide “Day of Action” Dec. 9 in Albany. He joined



DONALD FELDSTEIN

UUP President Fred Kowal, right, delivers testimony Dec. 12 during a public hearing conducted by the state Assembly Committee on Higher Education in Albany. NYSUT Director of Legislation Stephen Allinger, left, also testified.

For the full testimony, go to
<http://uupinfo.org/legislation/pdf/121213Testimony.pdf>

December 9, 2013

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION by the NUMBERS

- 11** National Partners and **100+** Community Partners
- 100+ Events** across 36 states and DC
- 12,000+** Groups (large and small) and individuals endorsed “The Principles that Unite Us”
- NATIONAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN** seen by **30+ MILLION**
 - Radio Ads **12,216,059**
 - Print Ads **7,275,195**
 - Web Ads **10,010,000+**
- SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN** reached
 - Thunderclap **429,354**
 - Facebook **20,420,829**
 - Twitter **1,068,489**
- MEDIA COVERAGE** **120+** Mentions in local and national press outlets
 - “Day of Action Unites Students, Teachers in Protest” —The Root, December 8, 2013
 - “Education Activists Protest, Rally in Scores of Cities” —The Washington Post, December 9, 2013
 - “Reclaim School Reform” —The Nation, December 4, 2013
 - “Andrew Mitchell Reports” MSNBC
- 20,006** MoveOn PETITIONS SIGNED and **255,326** EMAILS SENT to policymakers

Reclaim the promise of public education.
www.ReclaimPublicEdNow.org
 #Reclaimit

NYSUT leaders and other labor and community groups in support of a three-year moratorium on the consequences of high-stakes testing for students and teachers.

The overall message from the “Day of Action” was to reclaim the promise of public education through greater state investment in public schools and colleges. At a news conference, Kowal said SUNY and its students are still reeling from major budget reductions over the last 10 years—a period that saw significant enrollment increases.

“The decrease of \$1.2 billion in state funding, on top of the increase of more than 41,000 enrollments, has led to crowded classrooms, delayed graduations, fewer faculty/student contact hours and reduced access to student services,” Kowal said. “It is essential that the governor and state legislators reinvest in our state university system and students by increasing funding to SUNY in next year’s budget.”

ON THE AIR

Kowal also took his message to the airwaves. That same day, he took part in an interview with NYSUT Vice President Maria Neira on “The Capitol Pressroom,” a daily one-hour public affairs program that airs on public radio stations statewide. Later that week, Kowal elaborated on his concerns during an interview on “Capital Tonight,” the daily public affairs program carried on Time Warner Cable systems north of Westchester County.

Other UUP leaders shared the union’s message during several

news conferences across the state. Vice President for Academics Jamie Dangler spoke to reporters in Binghamton; Buffalo Center Chapter President Tom Tucker was in West Seneca, Erie County; Upstate Medical Center Chapter President Mike Lyon spoke in Syracuse; and Geneseo Chapter member James Bearden delivered the message in Rochester.

SAVING DOWNSTATE

Kowal renewed his call to keep SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn a full-service, public hospital during the “Day of Action” and at the legislative hearing.

He told the higher education committee that SUNY Downstate’s so-called Sustainability Plan—which has led to job losses for hundreds of UUP members—threatens the hospital’s public mission and the vital safety-net services it offers, such as outpatient dialysis, asthma and kidney transplant services provided at Downstate.

“SUNY’s ‘Downstate Sustainability Plan’ does not provide a long-term solution to the current health care crisis in Brooklyn,” Kowal testified. “The answer to Brooklyn’s health care problem isn’t to reduce hospital beds and close hospitals.”

He said the “Brooklyn Hospitals Safety Net Plan” is the answer to preserving SUNY Downstate, its hospital and medical school, and health care in Brooklyn. The UUP-backed plan is endorsed by NYSUT, AFT, the Civil Service Employees Association and the Public Employees Federation.

— Donald Feldstein

OPEN SUNY

‘Fast Facts’ flier available online

UUP’s leadership team has been traveling the state, talking with academic and professional members about the chancellor’s Open SUNY initiative. The union believes the current Open SUNY plan would block access, lower academic standards and tarnish the value of a SUNY degree.

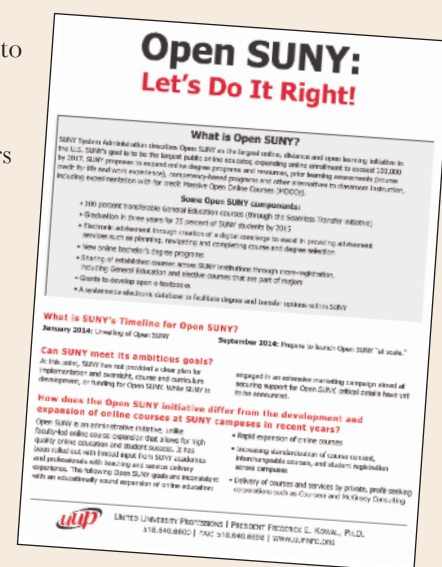
To help members educate themselves, their colleagues and campus administrators to the possible pitfalls of some aspects of Open SUNY, UUP has posted a “Fast Facts” flier at www.uupinfo.org. The four-page document explains Open SUNY and raises concerns about implementation, access, quality and transparency.

The union is urging members to hold SUNY accountable for providing answers to questions about funding allocations and sources, and the plan’s impact on a diverse population of students. UUP also questions the use of private

corporations and outside vendors for online learning services, such as course development, marketing, information technology support, and textbooks.

“Our concerns about Open SUNY are many,” said UUP President Fred Kowal. “That’s why it is imperative that we gather your thoughts and concerns about Open SUNY. We need you to question any implementation of the plan on your campus and to press your administration for an analysis of how Open SUNY will impact your campus.”

— Karen L. Mattison



This fact sheet on Open SUNY can be found at www.uupinfo.org.

TAKE ACTION ...

(continued from page 5)

It is imperative that we join with other educators, parents, students, and community members to rescue it.

UUP supports reform that is educationally sound and builds on the strengths and expertise of ground-level educators. Those educators confront challenges on a daily basis, while considering the needs of students and the guidance of parents who help us understand their children's experiences.

We do not support the top-down reform process that the SED has imposed. What's necessary is genuine openness to input from the citizens SED should be serving. SED Commissioner John King Jr. has repeatedly demonstrated his disdain for public input. He has refused to implement even the most modest of changes that educators and

"We must speak with a strong, unified voice, and take action as committed unionists and educators. If we don't do it, who will?"

— VP for Academics Jamie Dangler



parents have pleaded for, in an effort to rescue our public education system from being gutted of its substantive quality.

We must speak with a strong, unified voice, and take action as committed unionists and educators. If we don't do it, who will?

Contact me if you have comments and suggestions, or if you need assistance connecting with chapter and statewide

leaders to get involved. Also visit UUP's Teacher Education Task Force webpage at <http://uupinfo.org/committees/teached/taskforce.php> for further information, and to connect with union colleagues who serve on the task force as liaisons between UUP's statewide officers and our chapters across campuses.

I can be reached by email at jdangler@uupinfo.org or by phone at (800) 342-4206.

UUP finances A-OK

Members of the UUP Audit and Compliance Committee met at the UUP Administrative Office Nov. 21 to get their first look at the union's annual audit.

Auditors from Dermody, Burke & Brown were on hand to explain the details of the union's financial statements and chapter expenditure reports for 2012. The final audit was presented to the Executive Board at its Dec. 6 meeting.

"I am pleased to report that UUP's finances are in good order," said Treasurer Rowena Blackman-Stroud. "The union remains fiscally prepared to meet whatever challenges lie ahead."

— Karen L. Mattison



KAREN L. MATTISON

Statewide Treasurer Rowena Blackman-Stroud, right, questions auditors during a Nov. 21 meeting of the Audit and Compliance Committee. Also on hand, from right, were Finance Committee Chair Caroline Bailey of ESF, Earl Packard of Alfred, Kiko Franco of Old Westbury and Derrik Decker of Fredonia.

Each year, hundreds of UUP members publish books and articles, and are recognized for accomplishments on campus and

in their communities. *The Voice* is pleased to recognize three members in this issue.

Emilye Crosby, a professor of history at SUNY Geneseo, received the Oral History Association's 2013 Article Award for her piece, "White Privilege, Black Burden: Lost Opportunities and Deceptive Narratives in School Desegregation in Claiborne County, Miss."

The article was published in the Fall 2012 issue of *Oral History Review*.

Crosby has written more than two dozen reviews of work by other historians, including a collection of essays, "Civil Rights History from the Ground Up: Local Struggles, a National Movement."

She received a 2013 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service and a 2002 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



CROSBY

Jedan Phillips, director of community medicine in Stony Brook University's School of Medicine, recently received an Award for Outstanding Teaching from the class of 2013. His selection was the result of a vote taken by the entire class.

Phillips, a clinical assistant professor who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology, joined the Stony Brook faculty in 2002, after doing a fellowship in vascular surgery at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. He attended Johns Hopkins University and earned his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1995 from the University of Maryland.

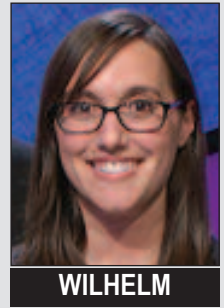


PHILLIPS

Cori Wilhelm, an assistant librarian at SUNY Canton, appeared Oct. 4 on TV's Jeopardy! game show—and won \$18,001 and bragging rights as a Jeopardy! champion.

The assistant librarian had previously taken online qualification tests and had auditioned to be on the show twice, after receiving encouragement from friends and family.

Wilhelm earned her undergraduate degree in history from St. Lawrence University in 2003, a master's in education from SUNY Potsdam in 2005, and a degree in library science from the University at Buffalo in 2011. She began working at SUNY Canton in 2006



WILHELM

— Karen L. Mattison

Eight UUP members earn distinguished ranks

Eight UUP members have joined the ranks of SUNY distinguished professors, which includes membership in the SUNY Distinguished Academy.

The SUNY Board of Trustees in November awarded seven distinguished professorships for national and international achievements, and one distinguished teaching professorship for mastery of teaching.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS



BATTA

Rajan Batta, University at Buffalo (UB), has made a major impact in the area of urban operations research, which deals with logistical and planning applications impacting

services such as emergency response, disaster logistics and national security.

He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Dr. David F. Baker

Distinguished Research Award, the highest research award given by the Institute of Industrial Engineers. He has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than \$13 million of externally funded research, and has served as department editor or editorial board member of four operations research journals.



FARAONE

Stephen Faraone, Upstate Medical University (UMU), is the leading researcher in the genetics of schizophrenia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

He currently is a participant in nine federally funded studies, and is a member of the editorial boards of six journals and editor of *Neuropsychiatric Genetics*, deputy editor of the *Journal of the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, *Biostatistical and Methodology*, editor of the *Journal of Attention*

Disorders, associate editor of *Behavioral and Brain Functions*, and has served as associate editor of the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology* from 2001 to 2009. Faraone is also an ad hoc member of advisory committees in the UK, Ireland, Singapore, Australia and Norway.



FINN

Jeremy Finn of UB is a pioneer in the early development of software for the statistical analysis of educational data, and has done research on educa-

tional policies, both nationally and internationally. He has been awarded a Spencer Research Fellowship, the NSF/American Statistical Association Research Fellowship, and the 2006 UB Exceptional Scholar Award in the category of Sustained Achievement. His pioneering research on class size effects through true experimental design has had see **DISTINGUISHED**, page 12

Candidate statements due by March 7

Delegates to the 2014 Spring Delegate Assembly will elect three state-wide officers and five Executive Board members. The Spring DA will be held May 2-3 in Albany.

In addition to electing board members, delegates will cast their ballots for vice president for professionals, vice president for academics, and treasurer. If the membership ratio of academics to professionals remains the same as the present ratio, of the eight people to be elected, three must be academics and five must be professionals. If the ratio changes, elections will be adjusted accordingly.

In accordance with DA policy, candidates running for statewide elective positions may have statements printed in *The Voice*, which is mailed to all bargaining unit members.

The following provisions apply:

- Candidates may submit a statement of up to 500 words and a photo for publication. If a candidate submits a lengthier statement, it will be set in smaller type to give all candidates equal space.
- Send statements and photos to the

attention of UUP Associate Director of Communications Michael Lisi. They must be received at the UUP Administrative Office, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212, by 5 p.m. Friday, March 7.

Email versions may be sent to Lisi at mlisi@uupmail.org.

- Candidate statements will be published by order of election and in alphabetical order in even-numbered years and reverse alphabetical order in odd-numbered years.

- Candidate statements must be typed and double-spaced. Candidates are urged to submit statements and photos by email, or on computer disk accompanied by a printed copy.

Note: UUP policy prohibits the use of UUP or state equipment or resources (including email) to produce or distribute campaign material for UUP elections.

Statements will be published in the April 2014 issue of *The Voice*.

Copies of the union's policy on the distribution of campaign materials can be found online at www.uupinfo.org, at chapter offices, or by contacting UUP Secretary Eileen Landy at (800) 342-4206 or at clandy@uupmail.org.

One amendment on Winter DA agenda

In accordance with Article XIII of the UUP Constitution, UUP bargaining unit members are hereby notified that the following proposed constitutional amendment will be on the agenda of the 2014 Winter Delegate Assembly, Feb. 2-3 at the Albany Hilton.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment to add two seats to the UUP Executive Board (Submitted by the Stony Brook Chapter)

Additions are **bolded and underlined**; Deletions are ~~bracketed and lined through~~.

To amend: Article V, Executive Board, Section 1. Composition.

There shall be an Executive Board consisting of the officers and ~~thirteen~~ **fifteen** additional persons elected by and from the body of the Delegate Assembly.

DISTINGUISHED ...

(continued from page 11)

significant impact on using large-scale randomized field trials (gold standard) in educational research and evaluation. His work was recognized by Education Leadership in 2003.



Joseph A. Gardella Jr., UB, has a 30-year academic record that has balanced excellence in research, teaching, civic engagement, public service and economic

development. His research is concentrated on the development of chemical analysis of surfaces, especially in complex biological and environmental media.

Honored by the White House with the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence

in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentorship, Gardella's teaching and public service intersect with his work with the Buffalo Public Schools to enhance teacher education and pedagogical content in the STEM fields. He played an instrumental role in guiding this program to be awarded a five-year, \$9.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation Math Science Partnership Program.



Eckhard Krotscheck, UB, is a world-renowned expert in theoretical condensed matter physics, specializing in quantum many-body theory and low-temperature physics.

A Fellow of the American Physical Society, he received the Eugene Feenberg Memorial Medal in 2007, the world's highest honor for this area of research.

He is credited as one of the inventors of the Fermi hypernetted-chain theory, a method proven to be an invaluable tool in theoretical studies of strongly interacting many-body systems to quantum liquid drops, lattice spin systems and beyond.



Joseph S.B. Mitchell, Stony Brook University, is recognized as one of the world's leaders in computational geometry, a field that deals with difficult geometrical problems that

Union mourns longtime activist, scholarship guru

For years, it was virtually impossible to talk about UUP's college scholarships without thinking of Gertrude "Trudy" Butera. In her capacity as the former chair of the union's Scholarship Development Committee and an honorary trustee for the UUP College Scholarship Fund, Butera's advocacy was unwavering.

Butera passed away Oct. 29 at the age of 93. The contributions she made to UUP will not be forgotten.

"Trudy worked tirelessly on behalf of UUP," said union President Fred Kowal. "Her steadfast commitment and her energetic promotion of the UUP College Scholarship Fund is an inspiration to all of us."

In her role as an honorary trustee, Butera helped to raise more than \$700,000 to provide scholarships for outstanding SUNY students. Thanks in large part to her efforts, the UUP College Scholarship Fund is able to provide up to four annual scholarships of \$3,000 to full-time undergraduate students enrolled at a SUNY state-operated campus.

In 2011, the fund expanded with the creation of a graduate scholarship, the

William Scheuerman Post Baccalaureate Scholarship, named in honor of the former UUP president.

Butera fancied herself as a marketing maven, and no one who worked with her would disagree. She retired in 1990 after serving as a professor of business administration at SUNY Alfred for 16 years. She owned and operated her own marketing and communications business for many years.

Butera's scholarship fund work did not go unnoticed. In 1996, she received the union's Nina Mitchell Award for Distinguished Service—UUP's highest honor—for her devotion to the scholarship fund. In 2008, she was honored with the Eugene P. Link Award for Outstanding Devotion and Service to the Cause of Unionism in Higher Education. The award recognized her exceptional volunteer service to the labor movement and higher education.



KAREN L. MATTISON

Trudy Butera of Alfred poses next to the first installment of the Donor Wall of Hope, a fund-raising effort begun by Butera in 2006 and continuing today.

In 2006, Butera was again honored by her union with an annual student scholarship given in her name.

Butera's achievements drew accolades from outside UUP as well. She received a 2006 Woman of Distinction award from state Sen. Catharine Young (R-Olean) based on her longtime service as a community and labor activist.

— Donald Feldstein

have inherent industrial application.

He has been a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator awardee, a Fulbright Scholar, a recipient of the 2010 Gödel prize, and is a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery.

Mitchell serves on the editorial boards of four of the top journals in computational geometry, and is a committee organizer of the top conferences in his area. He is a past recipient of a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

John Tagg, a member of the Binghamton University faculty for nearly 30 years, is perhaps the most influential historian of photography in the world and



TAGG

one of the most important art historians of his generation. His publications have played a critical role in gaining recognition for photography as an artistic medium and fundamentally

changed the way art historians and scholars more generally apprehend photography and view photographs.

His scholarly accomplishments have been recognized by numerous prestigious fellowships he has held in the U.S. and Europe, and frequent invitations to lecture across the U.S., Europe and Asia.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

Michael Schwartz, Stony Brook University, is the founder and adminis-

trator of the global studies program, and has overseen and implemented new and exciting classroom innovations to maintain the highest level of undergraduate engagement. In addition, he has been the anchor of a top-ranked graduate program for four decades.

As legions of Stony Brook's Ph.D. students could attest, Schwartz has been an important mentor, advisor and university colleague; he has consistently carried about half of all graduate students. Many of his students have gone on to become respected teachers in the nation's best sociology departments.



SCHWARTZ

Payroll, pension deduction convenient ways to pay

Programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits are even more convenient for members to purchase when using payroll and pension deduction payment options.

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ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Payroll and pension deduction make annual premiums easier to budget since they are divided into smaller payments deducted from paychecks or monthly pension benefits.

The use of payroll or pension deduction also eliminates the cost of printing and mailing bills; these savings are then passed on to UUP members and their families through reduced premiums, elimination of service fees, or additional coverage at no cost for a variety of endorsed programs.

Payroll or pension deduction is currently available for: Term life/level term life insurance; disability insurance; auto insurance; homeowners insurance; personal excess liability insurance; catastrophe major medical insurance; dental plan; financial counseling; legal service plan; long-term care insurance (not available to new applicants); WrapPlan® II; and universal life insurance (no additional discount for this program).

HOW TO GET STARTED

Select your preferred payment option at the time of application for any of the eligible plans. If you select payroll or pension deduction, you will need to complete the appropriate authorization card and return it with your application.

If you already participate in any of these programs and pay the premiums directly by personal check, you can convert your payment to payroll or pension deduction when your premium is up for renewal—as long as these payment options are available to you.

When you receive your premium renewal notice, mail it along with a signed Payroll or Pension Deduction Authorization Card (included in your premium renewal notice) to the address indicated on your renewal notice; if the card is not included, contact Member Benefits and ask for the appropriate card. Please do not send any payment. Member Benefits will be notified of the change and will advise your employer's business office or retirement system to begin your deductions.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Payroll deduction is available to eligible members of any local that has made arrangements with its employer.

Pension deduction is available to retirees collecting a monthly pension benefit from the New York State



Teachers' Retirement System, New York City Teachers' Retirement System, New York State Employees' Retirement System, or New York City Board of Education Retirement System. It's also an option for retirees who receive income from a monthly lifetime annuity from TIAA-CREF. Remember, you must maintain UUP membership as a retiree to participate in pension deduction of NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

For more information, contact Member Benefits at (800) 626-8101 or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Don't forget you can view the programs you participate in anytime with the My Program Participation service available on the Member Benefits website.

For information about this program or about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Union members can save big with ConsumerReports.org

Want to be a more savvy consumer? Looking for objective, expert advice for product and service recommendations?

For \$22 per year—a 27 percent savings—UUP members can find out how to save hundreds of dollars per year with ConsumerReports.org.

The online articles are full of ideas on how to save money and get the best value possible. Recent entries include: Strategies to save on groceries; best used cars under \$20,000; cutting health costs; and using frequent-flyer miles wisely.

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make the smartest purchase with the mobile website, Consumer Reports Mobile. It offers an easy-to-read mobile interface, product ratings and image, and side-by-side product comparison. No downloads are necessary—simply go to the ConsumerReports.org on your phone's browser.

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Change is good

Have you moved? Added a dependent? Has your son or daughter turned 19? When was the last time you updated your UUP Benefit Trust Fund term life insurance beneficiary?

Change is inevitable in life, and sometimes we forget to update our important information.

- **Change of address**—If you have moved, make sure that you contact the UUP Benefit Trust Fund with the updated address. The Fund does not automatically receive this information from SUNY. The Fund needs to be contacted directly. Additionally, it is very important that you ensure that your address is correct at the campus level. Please contact your health benefits administrator (HBA).

- **Change of marital or dependent status**—If you have married or added a dependent, please go to www.uupinfo.org and click on the Member Area. Under Benefits Forms, select the Marital/Dependent Status Change Form. Please note that a copy of a valid marriage certificate or birth certificate is required for newly added dependents. Changes to

Doreen M. Bango, Manager,
Member Benefits & Services



Domestic Partnership status must be submitted through your HBA.

- **Change of life insurance beneficiary**—If you are not sure who you have listed as your beneficiary, go to the UUP website, fill out a new form, and send it to the Fund.

- **Change of student status**—If your dependent child has turned 19 and is enrolled in college, he or she is eligible to continue with the UUP Benefit Trust Fund dental and vision plans (until age 25) provided the Fund has a current Student Verification Form on file. This form is also found in the Member Benefits area on the UUP website. Fill it out, have it notarized and send it to the Fund.

If you have any questions regarding your benefits, please contact the UUP Benefit Trust Fund at (800) 887-3863.

CONTACT INFORMATION

UUP Benefit Trust Fund 800/887-3863

* Employees must be eligible for enrollment in NYS Health Insurance Program

Delta Dental 800/471-7093

Davis Vision (Vision Care) 800/999-5431

Laser Vision Correction

(Client Code 7512) 800/584-2866

Empire Plan (Select menu option) ..877/769-7447
Press 1.

United HealthCare (Medical/Surgical)

HCAP (Home Care Advocacy Prgm./Equip./Supplies)

MultiPlan (Basic Medical Provider Discount Program)

MPN (Chiropractic/Physical Therapy Managed Prgm.)

Benefits Mgmt. Prgm. (MRI Pre-certification)

Infertility Treatment (Centers of Excellence)

Press 2. Empire BlueCross and BlueShield
(Hosp./Inpatient/Nursing/Transplant Pre-certification)

Press 3. OptumHealth
(Psych/Sub Abuse Pre-certification)

Press 4. United HealthCare/Medco (Prescription Prgm.)

Press 5. NurseLine (Info/Educ./24-hour Support)

HMO Participants Call your HMO

Retirement Systems (Pensions)

NYS Employees' Retirement Sys. . .866/805-0990

NYS Teachers' Retirement Sys . . .800/348-7298

Optional Retirement Programs

ING 800/677-4636

TIAA-CREF 800/842-2776

Metropolitan 800/638-5433

VALIC 800/448-2542

Tax Deferred Retirement Savings

NYS Deferred Comp Plan 457(P) .800/422-8463

NYSUT 800/342-9810

Member Benefits 800/626-8101

AFT 800/238-1133 x8643

Workers' Compensation/SS Disability

Fine, Olin & Anderman 866/362-4887

Flex Spending Account

Dependent Care Advantage Acct . .800/358-7202

Health Care Spending Account . . .800/342-8017

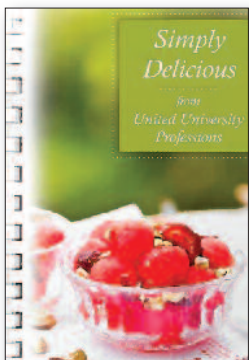
NYS Dept. of Civil Service 800/833-4344

New York State/UUP Joint

Labor/Management Office 518/486-4666

NYS Tax Information

Pensions/Annuities 800/225-5829



UUP is selling cookbooks to benefit its scholarship fund. You may order as many copies of the "Simply Delicious" cookbook as you wish for \$10 each, plus \$2.50 for shipping per book ordered. Enclose check payable to "UUP College Scholarship Fund" and mail to:

United University Professions
PO Box 15143
Albany, NY 12212-5143

Please mail _____ copies of the UUP cookbook @ \$12.50 each to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



United University Professions
P.O. Box 15143
Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143

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Are You a Member?

Thomas P. DiNapoli New York State Comptroller				JOHN DOE				Total Gross		Fed Taxable Gross	
Advice # 123456789				Pay Start Date 09/10/2013		Current		3456.78		1234.56	
Advice Date 09/10/2013				Pay End Date 09/24/2013		YTD		45,678.90		34,567.89	
Department ID 1234								Net Pay		1,234.56	
								Pay Rate		56,789.10	
EARNINGS											
Current				YTD				TAX DATA			
Hrs./Days		Earnings		Hrs./Days		Earnings		Federal		State NYC Yorkers	
Regular Pay Salary Employee		3456.78				45,678.90		Marital Status 4		4	
Location Pay		56.78				678.90		Allowances 2		0	
								Add. Amt.			
								TAXES			
										Current YTD	
								Fed Withholding		3,456.78 1,234.56	
								Medicare		45,678.90 34,567.89	
								Social Security		3,456.78 1,234.56	
								NY Withholding		45,678.90 34,567.89	
BEFORE TAX DEDUCTIONS				Current		YTD		AFTER TAX DEDUCTIONS			
Regular Before Tax Health		456.78		1,234.56							
Supplemental Ret. Annually Prog.		678.90		5,678.90							
TIAA Retirement Before Tax		56.78		1,234.56							
								UUP Member 26P		34.56 456.78	

CHECK PAY STUB TO MAKE SURE

In order to be a member of the union, your paycheck **must** say "UUP Member." If it says "UUP Agency Fee," then you are included in the Professional Services Negotiating Unit, but are *not* a member of the union.

UUP Membership Entitles You To:

- Vote on collective bargaining agreement
- Hold union office
- Attend union meetings
- Elect union leaders on your campus and choose your representatives at the state and national levels
- Maintain UUP membership after retirement and be eligible for benefit programs
- Upon separation of service, obtain Associate Membership with NYSUT and be eligible for benefit programs

Please contact your chapter officers for a membership card.